

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, paragraph [0009] with the following marked-up paragraph.

The present invention resides in a cutting head mounting and support ring assembly for a food slicing machine, and which includes an interlocking joint arrangement for connecting a pair of rings together so that the cutting head is restrained against tilting movement during operation of the slicing machine. More specifically, in accordance with a preferred embodiment, an improved ring coupling arrangement is disclosed for connecting a support ring and a mounting ring together in a slicing apparatus wherein the support ring has a plurality of circumferentially spaced, radially extending flange segments that have a surface inclined relative to the rotational axis of the impeller, and a mounting ring having a plurality of circumferentially spaced axially extending protrusions having a surface inclined relative to the rotational axis of the impeller. The inclined surfaces of the flange segments and the protrusions are complimentary complementary shaped and arranged to mutually engage face-to-face with one another to define scarf type joint connections when they are interdigitated.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, paragraph [0025] with the following marked-up paragraph.

The mounting ring 24 includes a plurality of circumferentially spaced projections 60 extending axially from the lower surface 58 of the ring. Each of the protrusions 60 is provided with a radially extending surface 62 oriented to extend at an inclined angle relative to the axis A of the mounting ring 24. The inclined surfaces 62 are preferably planar and complimentary complementary shaped to the inclined surfaces 52 of the support ring 26. The inclined surfaces 62 of the mounting ring 24 are

